

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for renting to a customer a self-storage unit located at a self-storage facility, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a customer service area including a customer service counter, the customer service counter having a first predetermined area which is viewed by at least one camera positioned in the customer service area, the customer service counter being configured to minimize glare in images captured by the at least one camera;

establishing voice communication ~~contact~~ between a remote manager and a customer entering the customer service area using a communication link so that the customer and the remote manager can orally communicate using a using the communication link;

the customer orally communicating to the remote manager an indication of the customers storage needs of the customer;

the remote manager orally communicating to the customer a recommended self-storage unit to the customer from the remote manager;

the remote manager facilitating inspection of the recommended self-storage unit by the customer, the step of the remote manager facilitating inspection of the recommended self-storage unit including the step of providing the customer access to the recommended self-storage unit so the customer can inspect the recommended self-storage unit;

providing the customer a hardcopy rental agreement form;

the remote manager directing the customer to fill out portions of the hardcopy rental agreement form;

the customer inserting certain data on the hardcopy rental agreement form as directed by the remote manager;

the customer placing the hardcopy rental agreement form on the first predetermined area;
and

the remote manager verifying at least some of the inserted data using the output of the at least one camera, at least one image captured by the at least one camera allowing the remote manager to view an image of the hardcopy rental agreement placed on the first predetermined area by the customer.

~~communicating credit information about the customer to remote manager;~~

~~establishing a self storage rental agreement between the customer and the self storage facility under the guidance of the remote manager.~~

Cancel claims 2-3.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing voice communication between the remote manager and the customer includes customer contact further ~~comprises~~ the step of automatically telephoning the remote manager when the customer activates a customer service area door contact is activated by entering the customer service area through a door.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing voice communication between the remote manager and the customer includes contact between the remote manager and customer comprises the step of automatically effecting voice communication between the remote manager and the customer in response to the customer entering the customer service area.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of establishing voice communication between the remote manager and the customer includes contact further ~~comprises~~ the step of automatically telephoning the remote manager when the customer picks up a telephone receiver disposed within the customer service area.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of the remote manager orally communicating to the customer a recommended recommending a self-storage unit further ~~comprises~~ includes the steps of the remote manager identifying a self-storage unit which can accommodate the storage needs of the customer, and the remote manager recommending to the customer a self-storage unit ~~size and location~~ within the self-storage facility that can accommodate the storage needs of the customer.

8. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1 wherein the step of ~~facilitating inspection~~ providing the customer access to the recommended self-storage unit includes the step

of ~~the remote manager~~ selectively ~~remotely~~ opening an access gate ~~by the remote manager~~ to allow the customer access to and egress from the self-storage unit.

9. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 1~~ claim 8 wherein the step of ~~facilitating inspection~~ selectively remotely opening an access gate includes the step of the remote manager opening an access gate, viewing an image of the customer through using an on-site camera as the customer approaches passes through the access gate toward the recommended self-storage unit, and remotely providing the customer access to the recommended self-storage unit so that the customer can inspect the unit.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~step of establishing a rental agreement further comprises the step of directing the customer to fill out a~~ hardcopy rental agreement form having includes pre-printed self-storage unit identification information by inserting personal information about the customer, and indicating a method of payment.

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39. (New) The method of claim 1 and further comprising the step of the remote manager observing the customer by viewing at least one image of the customer generated by a camera positioned in at least one of the customer service area and the self-storage facility.

40. (New) The method of claim 1 and further comprising the step of the remote manager observing at least some of the self-storage units using a camera positioned in at least one of the customer service area and the self-storage facility.

41. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the customer service area includes a merchandise cabinet having merchandise therein of possible interest to the customer, and further comprising the step of the remote manager selectively remotely unlocking the merchandise cabinet to allow the customer access to at least some of the merchandise.

42. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the customer service area includes a door, and further comprising the step of the remote manager selectively remotely locking the door to limit entry into the customer service area.

43. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the inserted data includes personal data and payment data, and further comprising the steps of the customer providing information corresponding to at least some of the inserted data, and the remote manager verifying the information using a camera positioned in the customer service area.

44. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the customer service counter includes a second predetermined area, wherein the second predetermined area is viewed by at least one camera positioned in the customer service area, wherein the at least one camera allows the remote manager to view an image of the second predetermined area from the remote location, wherein the inserted data includes personal data and payment data, and further comprising the steps of the customer providing information corresponding to at least some of the inserted data, the customer placing the information on the second predetermined area, and the remote manager verifying the information by viewing at least one image of the second predetermined area captured by the at least one camera, the at least one image allowing the remote manager to view an image of the information corresponding to the at least some of the inserted data placed on the second predetermined area by the customer.

45. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the customer service counter is painted a dark color to minimize glare.

46. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the customer service counter is illuminated with milky white lights to minimize glare.

47. (New) The method of claim 1 and further comprising the steps of providing a rental agreement drop box for depositing completed hardcopy rental agreement forms, and the customer inserting a completed hardcopy rental agreement form in the drop box.